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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Loving King of the universe, thank You that nothing can separate us from Your love. Remind us that we are surrounded by Your unconditional, positive regard, regardless of our faults and failures. Help us to see that our anxieties and fears, our doubts and disappointments cannot diminish Your affection for us.

Today, bless the Members of this legislative body. Give them wisdom to see what needs to be done and the courage to do it. Help them to persevere in doing Your will, knowing that a productive harvest is certain.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a

Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLARD thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will be in for a period of morning business. We do not expect a lengthy session over the course of this morning for today.

Last night, we reached an agreement to begin consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill on Monday at 3 o'clock. Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN will be in the Senate inviting Members to deliver their opening remarks. We expect amendments to be offered later in the day on Monday. There will be no roll-call votes on Monday. I anticipate debating amendments and setting votes to occur on Tuesday morning. Therefore, we expect at least one vote to occur Tuesday prior to the policy meetings.

As a reminder to our colleagues, we will have the official photograph taken

in the Senate Chamber at 2:15 on Tuesday. Senators should be seated at their desk promptly at 2:15 to avoid missing that photograph.

Following that, we have a debate period set aside prior to a cloture vote on a mine safety and health nomination reported out of the HELP committee back in March.

Early next week, we will be considering the supplemental appropriations conference report when it arrives from the House. We hope to dispose of that conference report in a reasonable amount of time in order to return to the Defense authorization bill.

Clearly, there is much to do next week. We will need everyone's assistance as we schedule these items.

We currently have a lot of things going on in addition to what is going on in the Senate Chamber. The supplemental conference bill, as most people have heard, is coming along and has come along very well. We will be doing that next week. There is a pensions bill in conference. There is real progress being made on that particular bill as well.

ALLIGATOR ALLEY CAR ACCIDENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I take a few moments to share an account of an event that occurred nearly 3½ years ago. The story I tell is a very tragic story. At the time, it received a lot of media coverage, but because of a recent fortuitous occurrence, it has again become relevant.

Each year around Christmas, some time before, usually afterwards, my family, Karyn and our three boys, and my extended family, have a tradition of going to Fort Lauderdale, FL, a tradition that began well over 40 years ago by my parents and my own brothers and sisters—I have two brothers and two sisters—and their children, and usually, almost always, several friends from a number of those individuals spend time together enjoying the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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